ENVIRONMENTAL & REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION
Bureau of Storage Tank Regulation
P. O. Box 7837
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7837

Wisconsin Department of Commerce

Program Letter
Bureau of Storage Tank Regulation
November 1998

Fueling Fleet Vehicles From Portable Tanks

Tank owners and fuel vendors have devised several creative methods to provide vehicle fueling as options to the UST or AST regulations. Recently, several vendors have assembled a portable/mobile unit consisting of a chassis, tank, and dispenser for purposes of retail fuel distribution. The vendor provides a portable/mobile unit to the customer for use on the customer's site to fuel fleet vehicles. The fuel transfer may be to the vehicle power unit or a refrigerating unit of a trailer. The transfer pump is powered by an electrically driven motor either direct wired or battery charged. However, hand pump and gasoline engine pumps have also been used. The unit's design and purpose follows a concept that is acceptable for use on construction sites where the mobile fuel storage may be towed to the off-road equipment being fueled. *This concept is authorized only at construction sites.* Refer to May1997 Program Letter Fuel Storage and Dispensing at Construction Sites. (Program letters may be accessed via the Internet site: http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/ER-BSTR Home Page.html)

The Department has investigated and evaluated the practice at the request of parties advocating the allowance of this form of fleet fueling and those in opposition to the practice. The Department is maintaining prohibition to the practice based upon the following justification:

- The Department is unaware of standards that exist for equipment used in this fashion.
- The Department subscribes to nationally recognized standards when developing rules or supporting regulatory policy. The national standard for automotive fueling, NFPA 30A prohibits the practice with exception to temporary fueling.

  NFPA 30A-2-1.1 Liquids shall be stored in:
  (a) Approved closed containers not exceeding 60 gal (227 L) capacity;
  (b) Tanks in special enclosures inside buildings as described in Section 2-2;
  (c) Aboveground tanks supplying marine service stations as provided in 2-1.6;
  (d) An approved tank that is part of a fuel dispensing system as provided for in 9-3.5;
  (e) Tanks located underground as in Section 2-4 of NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code;
  (f) Tanks or containers inside service station buildings as provided for in 2-3.3 and 2-3.4; or
  (g) Aboveground storage tanks located at service stations with the approval of the authority having jurisdiction and as provided for in Section 2-4.

  9-3.3 The provisions of 2-1.1 shall not prohibit the temporary use of movable tanks in conjunction with the dispensing of flammable or combustible liquids into the fuel tanks of motor vehicles or other motorized equipment on premises not normally accessible to the public. Such installations shall only be made with the approval of the authority having jurisdiction. The approval shall include a definite time limit.

- Fleet fueling sites are classified by the standard and ILHR 10 as Service Stations:

  Automotive Service Station. That portion of a property where liquids used as motor fuels are stored and dispensed from fixed equipment into the fuel tanks of motor vehicles or approved containers and shall include any facilities for the sale and service of tires, batteries, and accessories. This occupancy designation shall also apply to buildings, or portions of buildings, used for lubrication, inspection, and minor automotive maintenance work, such as tune-ups and

brake system repairs. Major automotive repairs, painting, and body and fender work are excluded.

- NFPA 30A-9-3.4 recognizes fueling from NFPA 385 compliant tank vehicles, which are commercial fuel or petroleum product delivery trucks. This standard is intended to apply to the "drive on – drive off" fuel delivery procedure.

  9-3.4 The provisions of 2-1.1 shall not prohibit the dispensing of Class I and Class II liquids in the open from a tank vehicle to a motor vehicle located at commercial, industrial, governmental, or manufacturing establishments and intended for fueling vehicles used in connection with their businesses. Such dispensing shall be permitted provided:
  (a) An inspection of the premises and operations has been made and approval granted by the authority having jurisdiction.
  (b) The tank vehicle complies with the requirements covered in NFPA 385, Standard for Tank Vehicles for Flammable and Combustible Liquids.
  (c) The dispensing hose does not exceed 50 ft (15 m) in length.
  (d) The dispensing nozzle is a listed automatic-closing type without a latch-open device.
  (e) Nighttime deliveries shall only be made in adequately lighted areas.
  (f) The tank vehicle flasher lights shall be in operation while dispensing.
  (g) Fuel expansion space shall be left in each fuel tank to prevent overflow in the event of temperature increase.

- Fire safety and fire service concerns do not accept the subject mobile tanks for issues of logistics. Stationary aboveground storage tanks do not move so emergency responders generally know where they are.

- All fueling sites or activities have similar safety concerns, e.g.:
  a) Set backs (NFPA 30A-2-4.2.2).
  b) Spill control (NFPA 30A-2-4.3).
  c) Security and collision protection (NFPA 30A-2-4.7.1).
  d) Emergency shut-off control (NFPA 30A-4-1.2).
  e) Vapor recovery (NFPA 30A-4-4).

  Compliance with these issues can not be assured with the subject mobile tank fueling practice.